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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor : Kaoru Okumura	
Appln. No.: 10/706,124	Group Art Unit: 2167
Filed : November 12, 2003	
For : EXPANDED SEARCH KEYWORDS	Examiner: Kimberly Lovel
Docket No.: M61.12-0548	

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

VIA FACSIMILE:
571-273-8300

Sir:

Applicant believes that a telephone conference with the Examiner at this point in time may help to advance the present case toward allowance. Accordingly, Applicant hereby respectfully requests the privilege of an interview. In that regard, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned (Christopher L. Holt) to arrange a date and time for a phone conference. If the Examiner is not inclined to conduct an interview at this time, Applicant respectfully requests that the undersigned be contacted and informed that this is the case. The undersigned can be reached at (612) 852-0600 during normal business hours (central time zone).

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: _Chris Holt_

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CLH:rkp

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended)   A method for making additional terms available to a searching process, the method comprising:

>   receiving an input string that incorporates a plurality of characters and at least two intervening spaces, wherein the input string includes N words and N is greater than 3;
>
>   preprocessing the input string:
>
>   wherein preprocessing includes removing at least one extraneous character from the input string;
>
>   concatenating the plurality of characters to form additional terms, wherein the additional terms are (N-1)(N/2) combinations of words selected from the N words based on word adjacency;
>
>   providing the input string and the additional terms to the search process; and
>
>   displaying a search result identified by the search process as being related to at least one of the additional terms.

2. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein,

>   receiving an input string comprises receiving an input string that incorporates a first set of characters separated by a space from a second set of characters; and
>
>   concatenating comprises concatenating the first and second sets of characters.

3. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 2, wherein at least one of the first and second sets of characters is a single character.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

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6. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, and further comprising suppressing at least one of the additional terms.

7. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the method is executed upon a client system.

8. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the method is executed upon a server.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the input string is a search string.

11-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended)   A method for providing additional search terms to a search process, the method comprising:

      receiving an input string having a plurality of characters and at least two intervening spaces, wherein the plurality of characters form N words and N is greater than 3;

      forming a number of additional terms, wherein the number of additional terms is (N-1)(N/2) combinations of words selected from the N words based on word adjacency;

      providing the input string and at least one of the additional search terms to the search process;

      generating a search result as a function of at least one of the additional terms; and

      providing an output indicative of the search result;

      wherein at least one of the additional search terms comprises exactly two of the N words and at least of the additional search terms comprises exactly three of the N words; and

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wherein at least one of the additional search terms comprises exactly four of the N words.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising excluding at least one of the additional terms from the search process.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein providing at least one of the additional search terms to the search process comprises providing less than all of the additional search terms to the search process.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein providing an output comprises displaying.

26. (Currently Amended)   A method for making additional terms available to a searching process, the method comprising:

      receiving an input string that incorporates a plurality of characters and at least two intervening spaces, wherein the input string includes N words and N is greater than 3;

      generating (N-1)(N/2) additional search terms, wherein each of the additional search terms is formed by eliminating some or all of the intervening spaces, and wherein each additional search term is a combination of words in the N words that are adjacent to one another;

      providing the input string and at least one of the additional terms to the search process;

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generating a search result as a function of at least one of at least one of the additional terms; ~~and~~

providing an output indicative of the search result;

wherein at one of the additional search terms includes exactly two of the N words and at least one of the additional search terms includes exactly three of the N words.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 further comprising excluding at least one of the additional terms from the search process.